



MEMO

TO: Prevention Partnership Providers and
Local Public Health Units

FROM: Molly Howell, MPH
Immunization Program Manager

RE: MMRV (Proquad[®]) Supply Update

DATE: October 29, 2012

Beginning November 1, 2012, MMRV (Proquad[®]) will again be available for order through the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) Immunization Program. An updated vaccine order form will be available at www.ndhealth.gov/immunize, beginning November 1, 2012.

MMRV is licensed for children ages 12 months through 12 years. Anyone ages 13 and older who needs either MMR or varicella vaccine should receive separate vaccines, not MMRV. Of note, children who received the first dose as MMRV have had more fevers and fever-related seizures (about 1 in 1,250) than children who received the first dose as separate shots of MMR and varicella vaccines on the same day (about 1 in 2,500). The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations are as follows:

- The routinely recommended ages for measles, mumps, rubella and varicella vaccination continue to be ages 12 – 15 months for the first dose and ages 4 – 6 years for the second dose.
- For the first dose of MMR and varicella vaccines at ages 12 – 47 months, either MMR and varicella vaccines administered separately or MMRV vaccine may be used. Providers who are considering administering MMRV vaccine should discuss the benefits and risks of both vaccination options with the parents or caregivers. Unless the parent or caregiver expresses a preference for MMRV vaccine, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that MMR and varicella vaccines should be administered separately for the first dose in this age group.
- For the second dose of MMR and varicella vaccines at any age (15 months - 12 years) and for the first dose at age ≥ 48 months, use of MMRV vaccine generally is preferred over separate injections
- Children with a personal or family history of seizures of any etiology generally should be vaccinated with MMR vaccine and varicella vaccine separately.

MMRV should only be administered when both MMR and varicella are indicated. MMRV vaccine must be stored in the freezer between -58°F and +5°F (-50°C and -15°C). As a reminder, there is a vaccine information statement for MMRV. It is available at www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/downloads/vis-mmr.pdf.

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Providers should not submit separate, single orders for MMRV, but should order MMRV when they order other vaccines from the NDDoH. Providers should pay close attention to their current inventory of separate MMR and varicella vaccines and be sure not to order more than a three month supply of MMR, varicella, and MMRV vaccines combined. Providers may need to deplete current inventories of MMR and varicella, prior to ordering MMRV. Orders will be reviewed by NDDoH staff and cut accordingly, in an effort to reduce vaccine wastage.

State-supplied MMRV vaccine may be administered to Vaccines for Children eligible children (Medicaid, American Indian, uninsured, underinsured). Universal local public health units may administer state-supplied MMRV to insured children. The coverage table has been updated and will be available at www.ndhealth.gov/immunize starting November 1, 2012.

Please feel free to contact the NDDoH Immunization Program with any questions or concerns at 701.328.3386 or toll-free at 800.472.2180.